

## **Lightning Justice!**

On 2 October 2012, at a Special Court-Martial, Specialist Larry R. Gutai, A Battery, 2-11 Field Artillery, was found guilty of using cocaine on two separate occasions. The Military Judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 60 days, and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

The events leading to Specialist Gutai's court-martial began on 26 May 2012, when his battery conducted a unit urinalysis. Subsequently, his urine tested positive for cocaine. His command thereafter preferred a courts-martial charge against him for wrongful use of cocaine.

While awaiting trial in early September, Specialist Gutai's battery conducted another urinalysis. Specialist Gutai's urine again tested positive for cocaine. His command thereafter preferred another charge against him for wrongful use of cocaine.

Specialist Gutai was offered the opportunity to resolve the first cocaine use allegation under the procedures of Article 15, UCMJ. He turned down that opportunity, demanding trial by court-martial. While pending his trial date, he continued to use drugs which resulted in another court-martial charge being preferred, and culminated in his adjudged criminal conviction and punitive discharge.